

Nueces Estuary Advisory Council (NEAC) Meeting
Monday October 20, 2014 1:30 p.m.
Harte Research Institute
Texas A&M University– Corpus Christi
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Minutes

Members Present: Chris Loft, Chair; Ray Allen; Jace Tunnell; Ruben Solis; Paul Carangelo; Rocky Freund; Con Mims; Brent Clayton; Carola Serrato; James Tolan; Teresa Carrillo; Tom Ballou; Paul Orser; Wes Tunnell

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Loft called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

No public comments were made at this time.

Approval of June 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Members unanimously approved the June 16, 2014 meeting minutes.

Updates from Contractors for Funded Workplan Projects:

Chairman, Chris Loft, informed members that each contractor would provide a short update over their funded project. Member, Jace Tunnell, stated that Ben Hodges and James Dodson were unavailable to present at this time. He was informed by the contractors that work on the hydrodynamic modeling had commenced but that the landform modification project was waiting on sub-contracts to be finalized.

- a) Re-Examination of the 2001 Agreed Order Monthly Targets and Safe Yield versus Current Demand Evaluations – Cory Shockley, HDR Inc., provided background and emphasized the goals of the project are to determine if a shift has occurred in the inflow regime to Nueces Bay and the CCR/LCC system as well as determine the potential impacts such a change might have on safe yield and Bay inflows. He indicated that the project is currently in the data compilation phase and presented preliminary results of the models. Preliminary results showed lower demand equals higher lake levels and higher lake levels provide an improved opportunity for pass-throughs. He also indicated that if significant differences are observed between modeled results and the Agreed Order, additional modeling (i.e. TXBLEND) might be warranted and is within the scope of the project. Members inquired as to the ability of these models to reflect actual lake levels through time and whether the project will produce recommendations monthly target freshwater inflow volumes. Mr. Shockley stated that since the models do not include the most recent drought years, that values may not best reflect recently observed lake levels and that updating the models with current drought years is not within the project's scope of work. In addition, he stated that the project would not result in recommendations of monthly inflow volumes but would provide information concerning the frequency and pattern of pass-

throughs. However, he indicated that if the TXBLEND model approach is not needed it might be possible to extend the deliverables to include inflow volume recommendations. Lastly, Mr. Shockley stated that a draft report is scheduled to be out in late spring to early summer 2015.

- b) Nueces Nutrient Changes Over Time – Paula Lemonds, HDR Inc., updated members on the funded project to develop pre- and post- nutrient budgets for the Nueces watershed. The aim of the project consists of portioning out natural nutrient loads versus anthropogenic loadings and developing annual loads for pre-development and present conditions. She indicated that the project is currently in the data analysis phase. She demonstrated how outliers would be identified and removed as well as how changes in detection limits over time can influence data analysis. Members indicated that they were primarily interested in the impact to Nueces nutrient loads prior to construction of the CCL reservoir system compared to post construction as well as how nutrient loads relate to freshwater inflows.

Other items identified by NEAC members

Brent Clayton informed members that a company is seeking a permit from the Railroad Commission to build a waste disposal site near the CCL reservoir system as well as shared that the City of Corpus Christi is currently developing a new water supply index. He offered to present information concerning the water supply index at the next NEAC meeting.

Teresa Carrillo inquired whether the NEAC had decided to take an active role in pending industrial desalination projects. She was informed that taking an active role in applications was outside the scope of the NEAC's authority outlined in the Agreed Order.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NEAC is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 23rd, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the City of Corpus Christi Water Utilities Building.

Public Comment

No public comments at this time.

Meeting Adjourned